thecollegian

BOWLGUIDE

K-State bowl history: a glance at 18 years of postseason football

By Tate Steinlage THE COLLEGIAN

Preparations are underway and practices have resumed, which means K-State is going bowling for the fifth-consecutive

Athletic director John Currie announced Sunday that the Wildcats (9-3) have accepted an invitation to the 2015 Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, Texas against Pac-12 foe No. 15 UCLA (9-3).

The game will be the 18th bowl game in school history and the 16th under head coach Bill Snyder, who is 7-8 all-time at the helm of the Wildcats in such games. It's also the sixth bowl game for K-State in the state of Texas, but only the second time at the Alamodome. The other came 16 years ago when K-State dropped a 37-34 heartbreaker to Purdue in the 1998 installment of the game.

K-State will look to capture back-toback bowl wins for just the second time in school history after beating Michigan in last year's Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl in Tempe, Arizona. Prior to that win, K-State had not bagged a bowl trophy since 2002 when it took home the Holiday Bowl crown with a 34-27 victory over Arizona

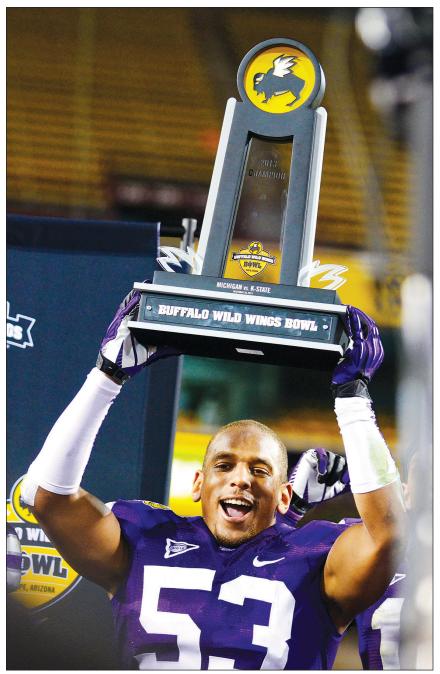
The lengthy drought included five losses by an average of 13.4 points. Arguably the two most disappointing games of the bunch came during the 2003 and 2012 seasons, both in the Fiesta Bowl. In 2003, K-State fell behind by as much as 21 points to Ohio State and then went on a frantic comeback before ultimately falling 35-28.

Two years ago, K-State learned of Oregon's speed the hard way. Current Kansas City Chiefs running back De'Anthony Thomas took the opening kickoff 94 yards to give the Ducks a quick 8-0 lead and one they would not relinquish.

The 11-year winless stretch also included a controversial ending to 2010's 36-34 loss to Syracuse in the Pinstripe Bowl. With 1:13 left in the ballgame, former K-State wide receiver Adrian Hilburn hauled in a 30-yard touchdown to pull the Wildcats within two points. However, Hilburn was tagged with a 15-yard excessive celebration penalty for saluting the crowd, dubbed the "Bronx salute", forcing K-State to attempt a two-point try from the 17-yard line, which failed.

K-State had better luck against Syracuse in the 1997 Fiesta Bowl. Led by K-State great Michael Bishop and his 317 yards and four touchdowns, the Wildcats cruised to a comfortable 17-point win over Donovan McNabb and the Orangemen.

That win was a part of a 4-3 K-State bowl run in the 1990's after being labeled "Futility U" by Sports Illustrated prior to the hire of Snyder in 1989. K-State captured two Holiday Bowl victories during



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLECIAN

Former linebacker **Blake Slaughter** hoists the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl trophy after the Wildcats' victory over Michigan Wolverines 31-14 on Dec. 28, 2013 at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona.

that time and a 52-17-blowout victory over Wyoming in the 1993 Copper Bowl.

K-State lost to Syracuse a second time in the 2001 Insight Bowl before rebounding against the Sun Devils a year later.

The program's only bowl appearance prior to Snyder came in 1982 with the Independence Bowl. K-State fell to Wisconsin 14-3 in that game with Jim Dickey on the sidelines as the head coach and his son, Darrell, on the field as the Wildcats' start-

ing quarterback. The payout for the 1982 Independence Bowl was \$600,000. Meanwhile, the payout for the 2012 Fiesta Bowl was

\$17,000,000 per team. The economics have changed, but K-State's presence in postseason college football has been consistent from the program's first bowl appearance to this year's Valero Alamo Bowl.

This year's senior class had a chance to make history by winning two Big 12 championships during their time at K-State. That dream fell to Baylor last weekend, but redemption can come with back-to-back bowl wins against UCLA on Jan. 2 in San

UCLA looks for high note on underachieving season

By Emilio Rivera THE COLLEGIAN

Similar to K-State, UCLA also had aspirations of a national championship this season. However, the Bruins were thought to be much closer at the start of the season due to the return of junior quarterback Brett Hundley.

Of the three games they played against ranked opponents, UCLA played three of them in the home confines of the Rose Bowl. They also put together a non-conference slate that positively added to their resume, including teams such as Texas and against known teams such as Texas and Virginia.

Unfortunately for the Bruins, things didn't go as planned. Like every other school other than the four that made the playoffs, one thing or another led to the demise of of their championship hopes.

The season started out on a high note for the Bruins, who went through their non-conference schedule without a hitch, including a hard fought win in AT&T stadium against an upset-minded Longhorns squad. In the next game and their first Pac-12 game, the Bruins steam-rolled No. 15 Arizona State, pouring 62 points on the Sun Devils.

The first setback for UCLA occurred against Utah. The program saw two-



Nathaniel LaRue | the collegian

Former K-State quarterback **Carson Coffman** attempts to leap over **Sean Westgate**, linebacker from UCLA, while running the ball during the last game the Wildcats played against UCLA on Sept. 4, 2010.

game winning field goals go wide-right as time expired, giving the Utes a victory.

In a that could have given UCLA momentum, then ranked No. 12 Oregon managed to down the Bruins easily and almost completely killed the hope of a national championship berth for the two-loss squad.

The last major hurdle for the Bruins came in the last regular week of the regular season. They needed a victory against Stanford to earn a Pac-12 championship berth and a shot to possibly

sneak into consideration for the College Football Playoff. It was not meant to be for the Bruins as Cardinal quarterback Kevin Hogan threw three touchdown passes in the dismantling of head coach Jim Mora's squad.

The success of the Bruins has been aided by the play of Hundley. Expectations are that he'll leave school early for the NFL draft and he is projected to be one of the top quarterbacks in the draft class.

Hundley has proven to be one of the best quarter-

backs to come through the UCLA. As the first five-star quarterback prospect to suit up in Bruin gold and blue, he has etched himself into the school's record books through an illustrious threeyear career.

The junior has set the all-time records in career total offense and passing touchdowns and has thrown for at least 3.000 vards in the last three seasons, topping out at 3,745 passing yards

during his freshman season. What makes Hundley special isn't just his arm, but

By the numbers

By Austin Earl

THE COLLEGIAN

5:45

(PM CDT) -Game time for the Alamo Bowl

K-State will face off against the UCLA Bruins in the Alamodome for the Valero Alamo Bowl on Jan. 2 at 5:45 p.m. CDT. This is the 22nd Alamo Bowl, but the first featuring two top 15 teams. The bowl has a history of being high scoring, fast paced and exciting. In 2011, Baylor and Washington combined for 123 points in the game.

755

Miles from Manhattan to the Alamo Bowl

While K-State fans have become accustomed to driving down I-35 to Texas, this will be the longest trip to the state this season. It will take them just under 11 and a half hours to drive their way to the Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. One perk is that there is an ample Whataburger restaurants as well as an In-N-Out Burger on the way. Fans could also fly to the game, but plane tickets start

75

Dollars to get into the Alamo Bowl

Upper level tickets to get into the Alamo Bowl are \$75. Lower level seats \$120. The prices are the same for students. K-State received 12,000 tickets to sell to fans. Tickets are on sale now. They are available by either calling 1-800-221-CATS or going to the K-State Athletics Ticket Office in Bramlage Coliseum.

Average temperature for Jan. 2 in San

K-State fans may be able to have an escape from the cold Kansas winter when the travel to southern Texas. The average high temperature in San Antonio for Jan. 2 is 62 degrees, while the average low is 40 degrees. The average high for Manhattan on that date is just 40 degrees, so the weather should feel nice for fans.

Amount of dollars it cost fans to enjoy the Valero Alamo Bowl Fan Zone

At noon on game day, fans can go entertain themselves before the bowl at the Valero Alamo Bowl Fan Zone for free. The event is in the Historic Sunset Station, one block north of the stadium. Fans can enjoy interactive games, food, drinks, face painting, live music and animals

262

Hotels in San Antonio

With over 35,000 hotel rooms in San Antonio, there should be no shortage of places to stay for K-State fans. The average hotel costs \$106 a night in the city. The city has a wide range of hotel options, from high class hotels near the River Walk all the way down to the average Motel

Ranking of San Antonio's tourist activities among Texas cities

There is a lot of things to do in the Alamo City. The city has the historic Alamo site and the River Walk. For the younger crowd, San Antonio also boast a SeaWorld and a Six Flags. If fans are in town a couple days before or after the game, they could go see the defending NBA champion, the San Antonio Spurs. The Spurs play at home on Dec. 31 and Jan. 3.

also his ability to get out of the pocket and make people miss when he scrambles. He is the second-leading rusher for the Bruins, rushing for 548 yards and a team-leading eight touchdowns on the ground.

The rushing stat puts him ahead of K-State's leading rusher, Charles Jones. The sophomore has 521 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Hundley is also having the best season of his career when it comes to his decision making, only throwing five interceptions along with

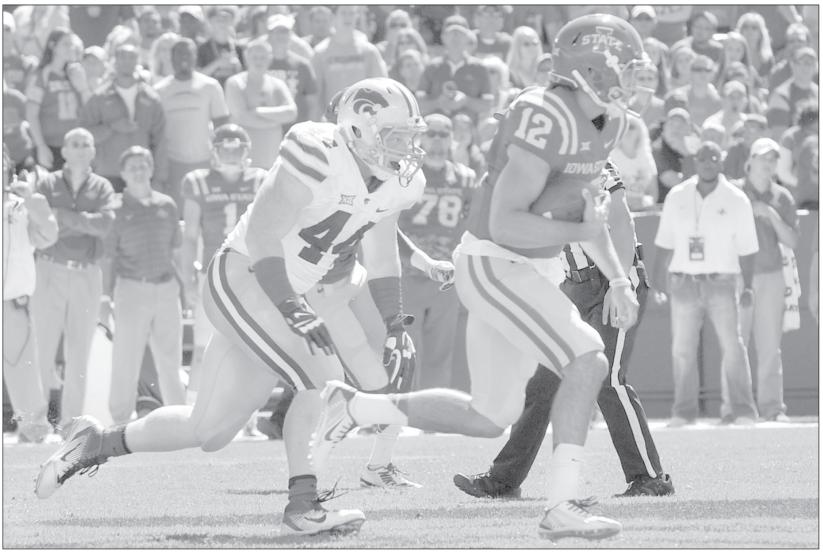
21 touchdown passes. He isn't the only threat the the Bruins have in the backfield as they also possess the Pac-12's leading rusher, sophomore speedster

Paul Perkins. At 5-foot-11, Perkins has rushed for 1,378 yards, which is nearly as much as the Wildcats' top three rushers combined.

While it sometimes stalls, the Bruins offense is one of the nation's best in production, with 5,615 total yards and 467.9 yards per game.

The Bruins are the third best team in the Pac-12, allowing 401 total yards each game. The team is anchored by senior linebacker Eric Kenricks, who was just honored with the Butkus Award, the annual award given the best linebacker in the nation. Kendricks has amassed 139 tackles, including a conference leading 96 solo-tack-

2014-15 in review: Success shouldn't be measured in championship for K-State



Taylor Alderman | the collegian

many people were frightened

at the task defensive coordi-

nator Tom Hayes had after

spring football had ended?

pieces to fit in with returning

ones and a lot of round pegs

trying to get through square

It came together and

away from Bill Snyder Family

body's pushed some five-stars

Sure they bent, and

even though Nick Marshall

and mighty Auburn walked

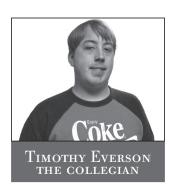
Stadium with a win, deep down they knew that a rag-tag

bunch of walk-ons and no-

to the brink.

There were so many new

Senior defensive end Ryan Mueller charges after Iowa State quarterback Sam Richardson at Jack Trice Stadium on Sept. 6. The Wildcats defeated the Cyclones 32-38.



After last Saturday's Baylor loss, there was a overwhelming sense of hopelessness in and around Manhattan. Now having an 0-11

against top 10 foes in head coach Bill Snyder's illustrious career, it is definitely is a tough row to hoe.

However, when is it ever a good idea to measure success by what you didn't do instead of what you did do?

FACT: K-State went into Norman and beat Oklahoma. Even if the Sooners are on a off year, you just don't do that

FACT: K-State remained in the top 15 for the majority of the season, proving itself to be one of the best teams in one of the best conferences in the country

FACT: K-State ended the season 9-3. Those three losses were all against top-10 teams at the time and two of those games were played away from Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

FACT: On Jan. 2, K-State will get a chance have their sixth 10-win or higher season in since 2000.

This team doesn't have the titles that the 2003 or 2012 teams had and they also don't have the flash that the groups from 1998 to 2000 had.

Maybe that's what makes them so special.

You could fill a book with the number of articles about

how many senior walk-ons are leaders for this squad. How about how many unheralded recruits were overlooked and now have become superstars?

They may not always succeed, but guaranteed, no one is trying harder.

Some have likened this team and past teams to head coach Bill Snyder's favorite movie, "Pinocchio" with Snyder playing his annual part as Geppetto. A loving woodworker crafting a wonderful, special thing bound to do great things out of wood others may have discarded.

That is very apt. How

them and makes them try harder than they did yesterday. When "Stand up for the Champions" is played on Saturdays, these players understand that a champion

Every player has their own K-State story that drives

sometimes they broke, but there was always more on the horizon. More motivation to

Jake Waters showed incredible drive to beat upset-minded Iowa State in September while also displaying the player his home state missed out on after two years

How about the reminder that Tyler Lockett showed both Oklahoma schools that the greatest wide receiver in K-State history grew up in both of their backyards? The list could go on and

keep rolling.

in junior college.

One hurdle remains for K-State and it's in the form of head coach Jim Mora and

isn't a title. It's a way of doing

It is a storied program with a tradition that goes back a long time. The Bruins were picked by some to make a appearance in the inaugural College Football Playoff and they vastly underachieved.

The Wildcats, by some accounts, overachieved.

That is what this team has been made of though. They have an overachieving work ethic with a chance to do something very special that K-State has done only once in winning back-to-back bowl

The Wildcats did it in the 1999 and 2000 seasons, but now this team has their chance to leave their own legacy.

Sure, they were never the best, but they didn't need to be. They got the job done. Because that's what they do.

Tim Everson is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Wildcats had lost to only

What they're saying: Analysts weigh in on No. 11 K-State, No. 14 UCLA

compiled by Adam Suderman

"The Wildcats don't want their regular-season-ending loss to Baylor in the pseudo-Big 12 title game to linger by dropping the Alamo Bowl, thus heading into the offseason with two straight defeats. More importantly, K-State will want to send Lockett, Waters, productive defensive end Ryan Mueller and the rest of the senior class out with a win. And the Wildcats can defend the Big 12's reputation with a win over the Pac-12's Bruins, adding to the intrigue and motivation

Grand Ol' Trun

for Bill Snyder's team."

ESPN Big 12 reporter Jake Trotter on K-State's motivation heading into the top-15 matchup

"The Wildcats demolished traditional power Michigan in last year's Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, but this is a matchup of top 15 teams and Kansas State is 0-3 in games against opponents in the final top 25 with two double-digit losses. Senior UCLA quarterback Brett Hundley finished 10th nationally in passer rating, but K-State receiver Tyler Lockett will be looking to end his career in style after being snubbed by the Biletnikoff Award. There's

not a better route runner in college football.'

FOX Sports writer and analyst David Übben on his evaluation of the matchup

"This was not the destination the Bruins desired. But their long-shot hopes of being the Pac-12's representative in the four-team college football playoff evaporated in a 31-10 loss to Stanford on Nov. 28. So the Bruins will make their last stand - for the 2014 season - in San Antonio."

writer for the Los Angeles Times

Chris Foster, UCLA beat

"With its pick of a handful

of Pac-12 South teams, the Alamo chose UCLA, perhaps on the strength of its victories over both USC and Arizona State. There's more talented, but this is just the sort of team that might give them trouble sound, disciplined and having committed only 51 penalties to UCLA's 89. The Wildcats also turned it over only 11 times in 2014. The K-State run game isn't much, so the offense leans on quarterback Jake Waters' 66 percent

receptions. Bud Withers, columnist for the Seattle Times

completion rate and Tyler

Lockett's 1,351 yards in

"Bill Snyder is all Wildcat. He is completing his 23rd season as the head coach of Kansas State and does not look to be slowing down. Despite an ever evolving Big 12 conference, he has always had his team grounded and ready for any challenge ahead of him.

Mike W.R., Go Joe Bruin

"In Kansas State, however, UCLA will face a much taller task to reach that 10-win threshold than it did in El Paso last season. when it stomped Virginia Tech in the Sun Bowl. 42-12. Before their loss to Baylor on Saturday, the

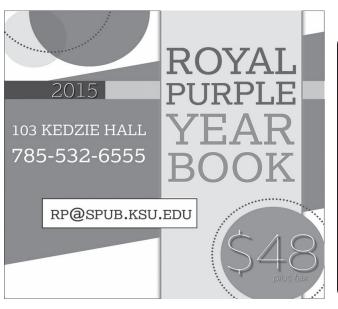
TCU and Auburn and were still in the running for the Big 12 title - with a small shot of sneaking into the 12's top defenses and an offense led by senior Jake Waters, one of the conference's best quarterbacks, the Wildcats still made a legitimate case to be selected for one of the New Year's Six bowls, keeping it close with Baylor. But the committee opted for Arizona to fill the final spot - a choice that cemented both UCLA and Kansas State's trip to San Antonio.

Ryan Kartje, UCLA beat writer for the Orange County

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Alumni Association excited for Texas

By Adam Suderman THE COLLEGIAN

It has been 16 years since K-State last traveled to the Alamo Bowl and those in charge of coordinating the trip are excited for what's in store for those traveling to San Antonio.

"It's a better place to go for traveling K-Stater's," Chris Gartner, head of the K-State Alumni Association chapter in San Antonio, said. "It's a lot more fun in San Antonio than in the middle of the (Dallas-Fort Worth) metroplex. There is a lot more for the team to do. It's not Jerry's World, but the Alamodome is still a really nice location and nice venue. To some extent, it's a better destination, but it doesn't have quite the prestige of the Cotton Bowl. It's a pretty good plan B."

Gartner, '77 alumnus in civil engineering, leads an active chapter of over 1,000 media in the San Antonio area. They hold watch parties for football and basketball games and also host parties throughout the year.

"I had a sneaking suspicion for some time that we would probably be slotted into the Alamo Bowl," Gartner said. "We switched out of the Christmas party and this will serve as that this year. We have a very active group of local alums that love K-State and we're excited to host the 'Cats down here."

Overall, the state of Texas has just over 12,400 alumni and Alumni Association president Amy Button-Renz is excited to help host K-State fans in the third-biggest state of alumni.

"We have a very active alumni club in San Antonio," Button-Renz said. "In addition to that we have



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K-State family awaits the pep rally preceeding the 2013 Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl in Tempe, Arizona.

an active club in Dallas/Fort Worth and in Houston and several other locations. We know that there is a lot of excitement from our alumni that reside in the state of Texas."

In following past bowl tradition, Button-Renz and her office are in the process of preparing a pep rally the day before the game. Through two of the last three

years, K-State has seen roughly 15,000-20,000 fans attend these events and the group is expecting a large crowd for this year's edition

"One of our biggest challenges is always having a location large enough to handle Wildcat nation," Button-Renz said. "We travel so well and everyone is always excited. The pep rally is a highlight because they get to hear from Coach Snyder and the captains. The entire team and the coaching staff is present and that makes that event pretty special."

Gartner said that few members of his alumni group get to make it to Manhattan for games and they're extremely excited to see head coach Bill Snyder and his 2014-15 team in action on Jan. 2.

"We're proud to be represented by him and the guys that wear the Powercat on their helmets," Gartner said. "We're very proud of the team and the effort they put into it and we're extremely tickled to get to see them (in San Anto-

See San Antonio: what fans can look forward to in their bowl vacation

By Emily Moore THE COLLEGIAN

When K-State travels to San Antonio to play UCLA on Jan. 2, Wildcat fans are always welcome to cheer on their home team. However, if you're planning to make the trip to the popular south Texas destination, stay an extra few days and check out these sights and attractions in the city.

The Alamo Mission

This historical sight in San Antonio represents the history of the Alamo in Texas, the contains many different options for tours. There are many different parts of this museum including the actual museum building, the gift shop, the Alamo plaza and the gardens that are located behind the museum. For self tours and exploration of the grounds, the cost is free. However according to the Alamo website, there are audio tours and docent tours that will cost some extra money.

The website also talks about how the museum building was originally meant to be a church for the Spanish, but it never went through completed construction. The

building was at the center of the battle of the Alamo, therefore making it a preserved historical monument.

The River Walk

The River Walk, a series of shops, hotels and restaurants that surround a winding river, is a unique San Antonio feature and has an array of different activities. Around the area is an indoor mall as well as a series of individually scattered shops throughout downtown district. There are also several restaurants, many of which have outdoor seating in order for people to fully get the experience and atmosphere of the river being just a few feet from their table.

Another option for the River Walk is a boat tour. While this not free, the rider gets a full boat tour with a guide sharing stories of the walk in addition to pointing out popular tourist destinations on the river. Also, a special event takes place this time of year: the entire River Walk will be covered with Christmas lights, making it a must-see tourist location. According to the Visit San Antonio website, these lights will be up until Jan. 6.

SeaWorld

SeaWorld will be open

this time of year. In fact, the theme park has many different holiday-themed whale shows for festive visitors.

mood, SeaWorld will also have their Christmas lights still up and available for all visitors to look at. According to the Visit San Antonio website, this theme of holiday festivities with be happening

Not Museum

trate some of the Ripley's exhibits and artifacts" and

Six Flags Fiesta Texas Six Flags is a chain

amusement park that will be open all of December until Jan. 4. The park will be celebrating the holidays with Holiday in the Park through

Because of the cold weather, the park will also serve hot chocolate and candy canes.

To add to the festive until Jan. 4.



Believe it or not, San Antonio has a Ripley's museum. This museum contains several attractions that illus-Believe it or Not records as well as several additions and models. The museum is \$20.99 for one adult ticket and \$12.99 for a child ticket, according to their website. The museum has "over 500 also three stories of these attractions.

Jan. 4, as well. Most of the parks rides will be open with the exception of the water rides. In addition to the usual rides and attractions, there will be new holiday food options and there will also be opportunities to see Santa and a few of the Looney Toons characters.

San Antonio Zoo

The River Walk is a popular destination for locals and tourists in San Antonio.

Open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the San Antonio Zoo features more than 8,500 animals.

So if you do decide to make the trip to cheer on the Wildcats, hopefully there is time to enjoy the vacation

and experience the culture and history of San Antonio. Over the break is the time where there is no homework and plenty of free time, so go with a group and cheer on the K-State in the Valero Alamo

Bowl over this winter break.



EMILY MOORE THE COLLEGIAN







Bowl season: Where is your team headed?

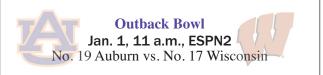


Military Bowl presented by
Northrop Grumman
Dec. 27, 12 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech

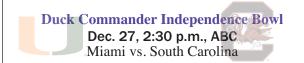
Capital One Orange Bowl
Dec. 31, 7 p.m., ESPN
No. 8 Mississippi State vs. No. 10 Georgia Tech









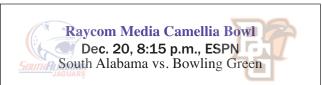


Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic
Jan. 1, 11:30 a.m., ESPN
No. 7 Michigan State vs. No. 4 Baylor



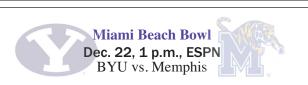


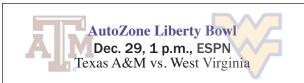


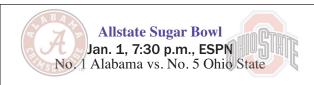


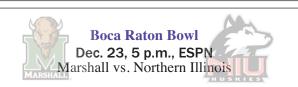




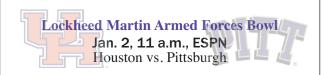


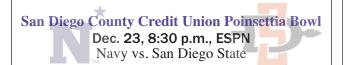




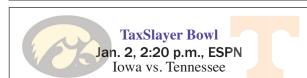


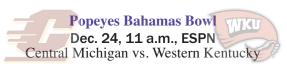
Russell Athletic Bowl
Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m., ESPN
Oklahoma vs. No. 18 Clemson





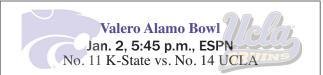
AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl
Dec. 29, 8 p.m., ESPN
Arkansas vs. Texas





Fresno State vs. Rice

Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl Dec. 30, 2 p.m., ESPN Notre Dame vs. No. 22 LSU

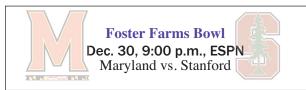


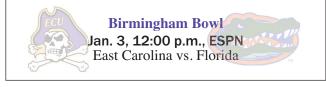


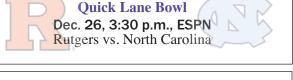




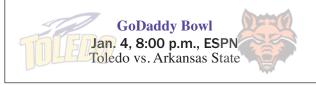












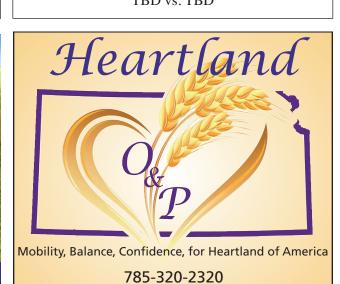


VIZIO Fiesta Bowl
Dec. 31, 3:00 p.m., ESPN
No. 21 Boise State vs. No. 12 Arizona

College Football Playoff National Championship Presented by AT&T Jan. 12, TBD, ESPN TBD vs. TBD







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